

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04722 271702Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----098348 271744Z /43

O R 271554Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6919  
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4722

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDSH  
TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK  
SUBJ: BRITISH-GUATEMALAN TALKS ON BELIZE

1. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TELEPHONED ME AT HOME LAST EVENING TO GIVE ME A BRIEF REPORT ON HIS MEETING EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROWLANDS ON BELIZE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH ROWLANDS FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS, THAT THE CONVERSATION HAD GONE WELL, AND THAT HE FELT MUCH BETTER ABOUT THINGS. HE SAID THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR UP SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT HAD CAUSED BOTH SIDES TO TAKE ACTIONS AND COUNTER-ACTIONS IN THE RECENT CRISIS. THEY HAD AGREED, HE SAID, THAT IN THE FUTURE THEY WOULD RELY ONLY ON WHAT EACH SIDE TOLD THE OTHER. THEY HAD ALSO AGREED TO PULL THEIR TROOPS BACK A LITTLE FURTHER FROM THE FRONTIER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTS AND TO HELP DEFUSE THE SITUATION. HE SAID ROWLANDS AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA WOULD BE MEETING TO SET A DATE FOR FURTHER TALKS, NOTING THAT HE HAD TOLD THEM THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY SEPTEMBER.

2. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT HIS MEETING  
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HAD GONE AS WELL AS IT OBVIOUSLY HAD, JUDGING BY HIS GOOD SPIRITS, AND HOPED THEIR FURTHER TALKS WOULD PROSPER. HE REPEATED THAT HE DID, IN FACT, FEEL MUCH BETTER ABOUT THINGS, ADDING THAT ONE PROBLEM NOW WAS TO AVOID LETTING THE PRESS STIR UP THINGS WITH INACCURATE COMMENTARY WHICH WAS ALWAYS A PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS MAY GIVE US LESS THAN A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSION WITH ROWLANDS, IT HELPS AT LEAST TO SUGGEST THE SATISFACTORY TENOR OF THE TALKS. WITH REGARD TO THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BEHIND THE RECENT CRISIS WHICH THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED, ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN BRITAIN'S APPARENT BELIEF, WHICH THEY PUBLICIZED, THAT GUATEMALA HAD MADE A MAJOR DEPLOYMENT OF THEIR REGULAR TROOPS ON THE BORDER WITH BELIZE, A DEPLOYMENT WHICH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS INSISTED NEVER TOOK PLACE.

4. MEANWHILE ROWLANDS HAS INVITED ME TO MEET WITH HIM BRIEFLY THIS EVENING SO WE MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER A LITTLE FULLER PICTURE OF THE TALKS AFTER THAT MEETING.  
BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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